



# Water Quality Training for City Operations

2008



# Water Quality Leaders

- As City employees we are the leaders of protecting creek and ocean water quality
- Know how to protect water quality
- Help others protect water quality

**People are looking at  
what we put into our  
storm drains!**



# TODAY'S MEETING

- Review pollutants –
  - What are pollutants?
  - Where they come from?
- Review tasks to protect water quality
- Your Division's focus on water quality



# Why do we care?

- Dry weather vs. wet weather
- Urban runoff from storm water
- All runoff transports pollutants to waterways via the storm drain

*Only our sewer system treats  
wastewater!*

*Storm drains lead directly to our  
creeks and ocean!*



# Pollutants

- As water travels over the ground, it picks up pollutants:
  - Fertilizers, pesticides & insecticides
  - Construction materials
  - Wash water
  - Oil & gas
  - Metals
  - Hazardous Materials
  - Bacteria from humans, animals, birds
  - Dirt/Sediment
  - Trash



# Where do pollutants come from?

- Construction
- Landscaping/Irrigation
- Property Maintenance
- Washing Activities
- Vehicle Maintenance (or lack thereof)
- Painting
- Spills/Accidents
- Pets



# Pollution Prevention

- Best Management Practices (**BMPs**) prevent or minimize polluted runoff
- The city has **laws** that comply with state and federal laws



# Pollution Prevention

Our City Law (16.15.010) says:  
***Water Pollution is Prohibited***

***“...any pollution or contamination or any substance, matter, or thing, liquid, solid or gas, which materially impairs the esthetics or usefulness of water”***



# Pollution Prevention

So... what does this law mean?

**Rule #1:**

**Only Rain Down the Storm Drain**

By the way... this is the only rule!



# Pollutant Source – Contaminated Wash Water



# Pollutant Source – Paint Wash Water



# Pollutant Source – Paint Wash Water



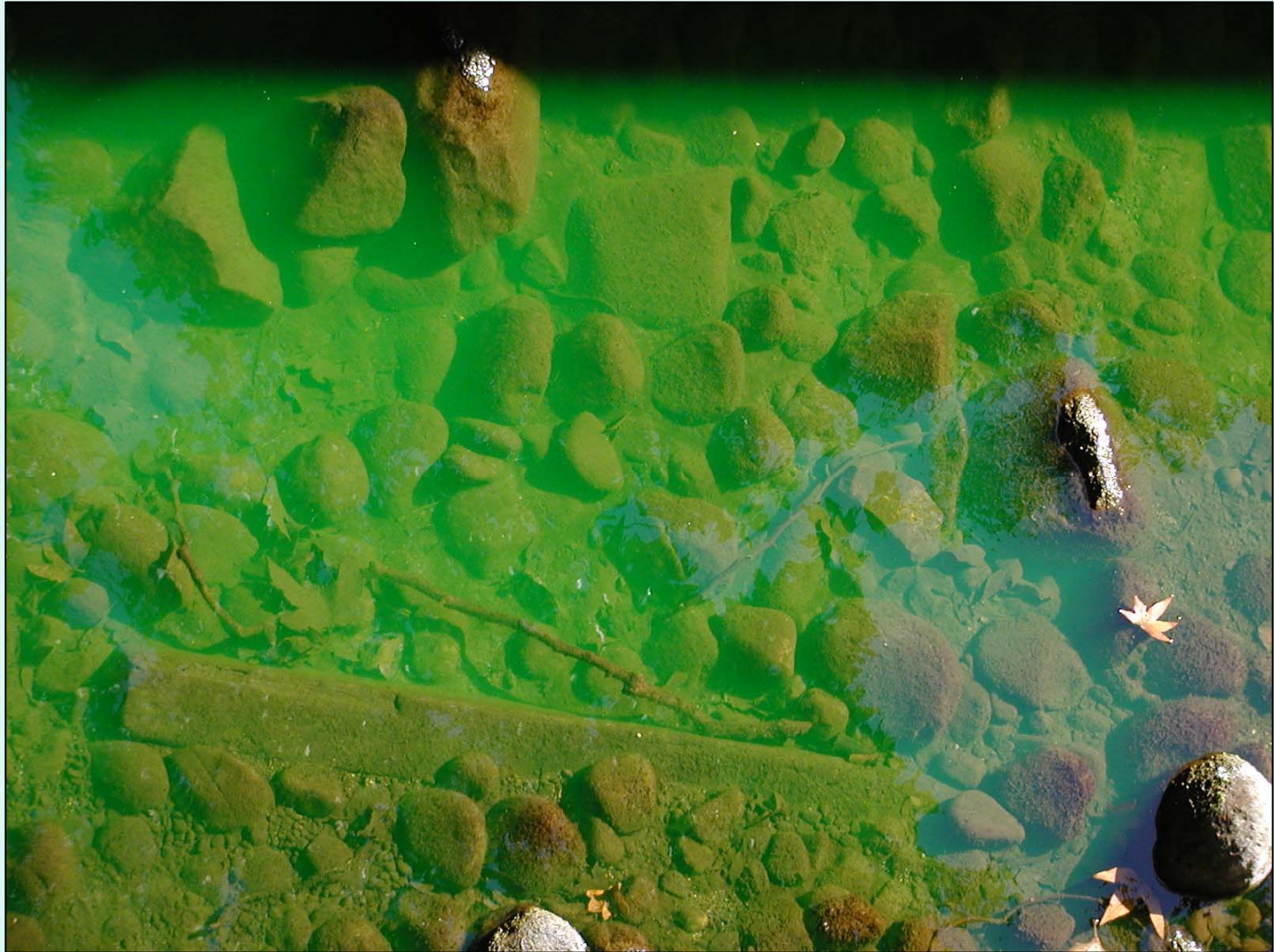
# Pollutant Source – Poor Storage



# Pollutant Source – Leaking Truck



# Mission Creek @ De La Guerra St. (2007)



# Pollutant Source – Poor Storage



# Pollutant Source – Street Trash



# Creek and Ocean Water Is My Home (Steelhead Trout)



# Fire's Contribution

At a hazardous materials incident,  
Fire personnel follow applicable BMPs:

- Contaminated runoff into creeks and waterways are of primary concern
- Protect storm drains;
- Put measures into place early in the incident to seal off the storm drain or divert the flow of contaminants away
- Treat fuel, oil, and other liquids that result from traffic accidents with absorbent and package for disposal
- Materials are never flushed into the gutters or into storm drains



# Hazardous Materials/Spills

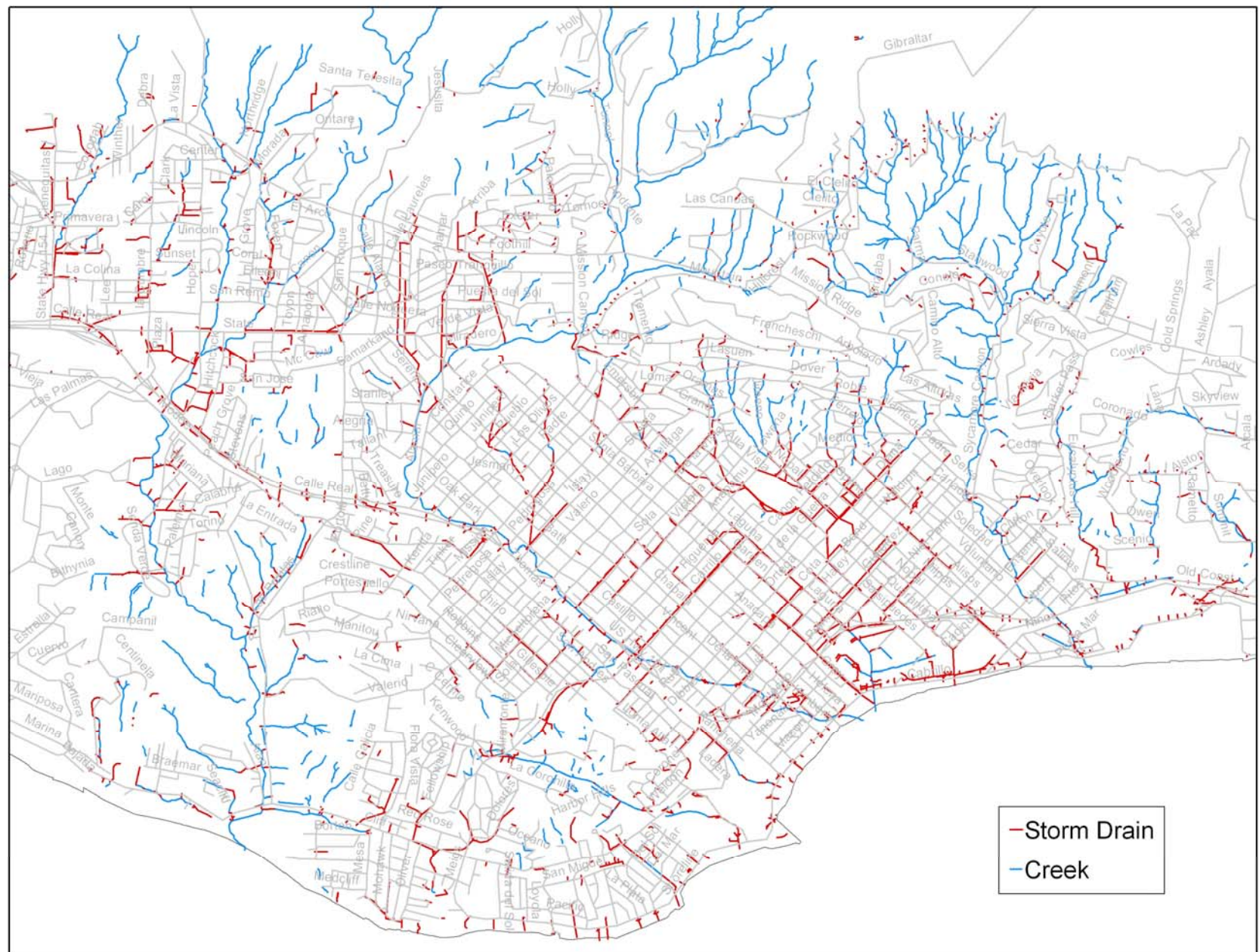
- BMPs
  - Contain spill material ASAP with sand bags, absorbent
  - Protect Storm Drains to prevent contaminated runoff from entering waterways using sand bags, drain covers
  - If spill enters storm drain, use maps to find direction of flow, block flow down the line

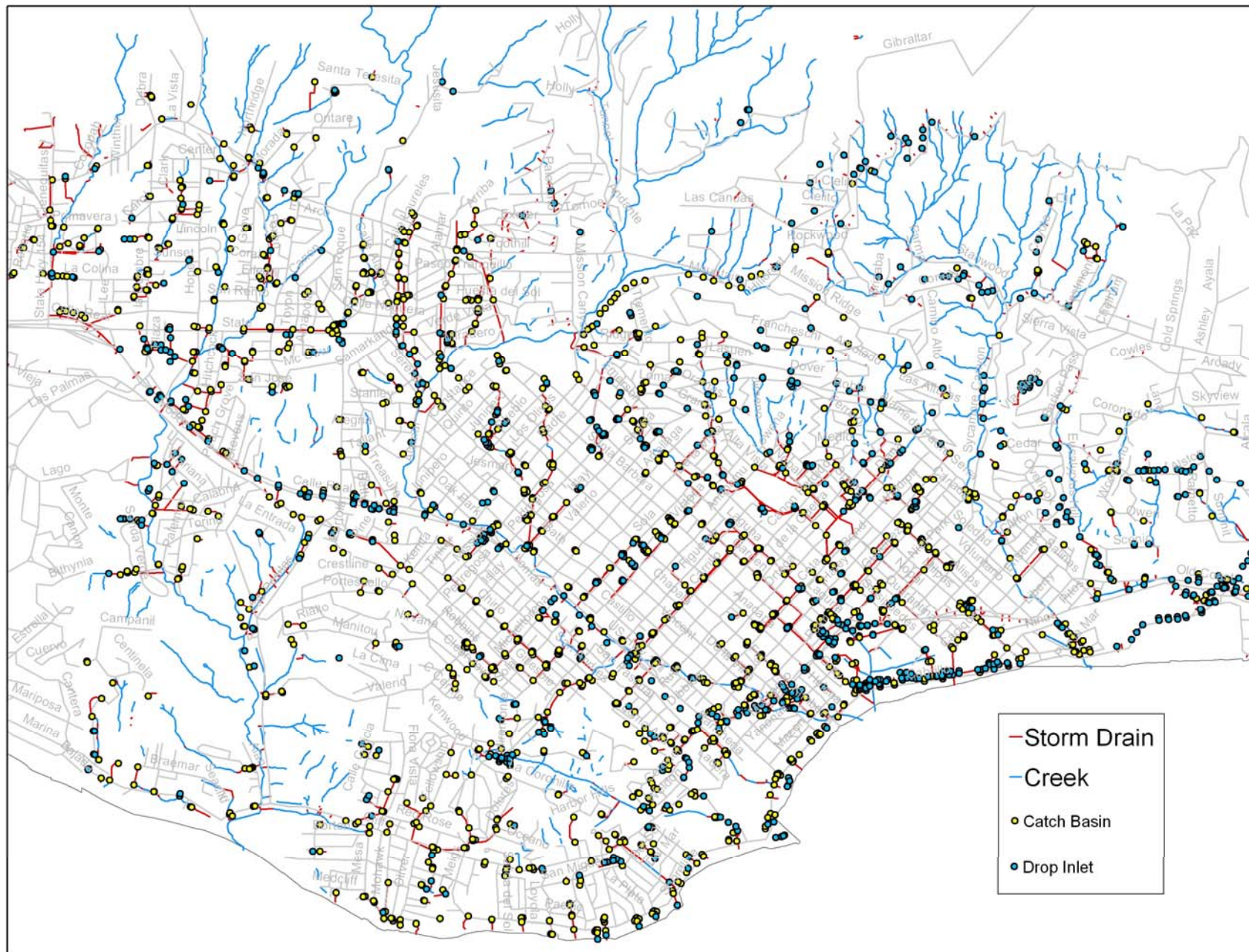


# Tools for Managing Spills

- Drain Covers
  - Creeks working with Fire to possibly provide reusable drain covers.
- Updated Maps
  - Have maps showing the storm drain system in vehicles
  - In addition to the Storm Drain Atlas







# Questions?

